

Message Text

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17

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10

AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 /133 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ITP/EWT:MTLORIMER:BH

APPROVED BY EB/ITP: MGLITMAN

COMMERCE/OTP:BMARSH

STR:ELAPP

COMMERCE/BEWT:SLOTARSKI

TREASURY:JRAY

USDA:JBESHOAR

EUR/EE:DMILLER

EUR/RPE:RBRESLER

----- 014207

R 011704Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, POL

SUBJECT: GATT AND PROSPECTIVE POLISH TARIFF

REF: A) GENEVA 5732, 10/29/73; B) STATE 225162, 11/14/73;

C) GENEVA 6185, 11/20/73; D) GENEVA 4273 (REPEATED TO
EC BRUSSELS AND BUCHAREST

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1. GENEVA SHOULD INFORM JODKO THAT OUR POSITION REMAINS

ESSENTIALLY THAT WHICH THE MISSION COMMUNICATED TO HIM ORALLY ON NOVEMBER 19, 1973, AND, AT HIS REQUEST, CONFIRMED IN WRITING ON NOVEMBER 20 (REFTELS B AND C). MISSION SHOULD REPEAT FOR JODKO THE POSITION SET FORTH REFTEL B.

2. MISSION SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN ADDITION:

A. MTN: WE THINK IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY GATT CPS WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE IN MTN ON BASIS OF POLISH TARIFF. IN VIEW OF SERIOUS RESERVATIONS CONCERNING EFFECTIVENESS OF TARIFF IN CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES, OTHER MTN PARTICIPANTS WOULD ATTACH NO WEIGHT TO IT. EVEN IF TARIFF WERE AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF EXTENSIVE REFORMS COMPARABLE TO THOSE ADOPTED IN HUNGARY, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN PLACE LONG ENOUGH DURING THE MTN FOR OTHER PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ON ITS EFFECTIVENESS, AND TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT ASSURANCE THAT IT WAS FIRMLY EMBEDDED IN POLAND'S INSTITUTIONAL FABRIC AND THEREFORE NOT VULNERABLE TO EROSION THROUGH SHIFTS IN POLICY. CONSEQUENTLY, WE INTEND TO SEEK FROM POLAND CONCESSIONS APPROPRIATE TO ITS ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT EMPLOYS TARIFFS.

B. WP ON ROMANIAN TARIFF: WE BELIEVE WP INSTRUCTIVE IN FOLLOWING RESPECTS: FIRST, ROMANIANS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE FOR A CEMA MEMBER TO APPLY ITS TARIFF TO IMPORTS FROM OTHER CEMA COUNTRIES. THE ROMANIANS UNDERSTOOD AT OUTSET THAT GATT CPS WOULD NOT ACCEPT TARIFF THAT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST THEM. SECOND, IT DEMONSTRATED THAT DIFFERENT CONSIDERATIONS ARE INVOLVED IN ACCEPTANCE THAT THE MODALITIES OF A STATE-TRADING COUNTRY'S TARIFF ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE GATT ON THE ONE HAND, AND ACCEPTANCE OF SUBSTITUTION OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS FOR AN IMPORT COMMITMENT, ON THE OTHER. WP'S ACCEPTANCE OF LATTER WOULD HAVE PUT GOR CUSTOMS TARIFF ON A PAR WITH THOSE OF WESTERN COUNTRIES. ROLE OF TARIFF IN ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND SCOPE OF ITS EFFECTS ON IMPORTS NOT SUFFICIENTLY EXTENSIVE AND FIRMLY ESTABLISHED TO MAKE SUCH STEP APPROPRIATE.

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ROMANIAN WP SHOWED THAT THESE ISSUES ARE OF REAL CONCERN TO CPS. ACCORDINGLY, WE ASSUME POLES ENVISION MUCH THE SAME PROCESS OF REVIEW OF THEIR ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND ACCEPT PROBABILITY OF A SIMILAR RESULT. (MISSION MAY DRAW IN GENERAL TERMS ON INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING ROMANIAN WP THAT ARE BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL TO DESCRIBE WHAT WE SEE AS PROSPECTIVE RESULT.)

3. EC BRUSSELS AND GENEVA SHOULD INFORM COMMISSION
OFFICIALS OF OUR POSITION BEFORE GENEVA PRESENTS IT TO
POLES. INGERSOLL

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